WASHINGTON (21 March) – This evening U.S. Rep. Gus M. Bilirakis (R-Fla.), representing Florida's 9th Congressional District, issued the following statement after voting against the trillion dollar health care overhaul:

"Today, Congress missed a chance to reform health care in a sensible and equitable way.

"Instead of working to produce real health care reform that would lower costs, Speaker Pelosi and the Democrats have passed a trillion dollar expansion of the federal government marred with special deals, mandates, tax hikes and Medicare cuts. Simply put, this heavy-handed approach will negatively impact families, seniors, veterans and businesses alike while leading to higher premiums and more government intervention."